

# ***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***

**AUGUST 2018**

**Official Bulletin**

**Of**

## **Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina**

A schedule of our monthly meetings is on the back cover of *The Mountain Gem* as well as on the Society's webpage. Meetings are held at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting of the Society.

Dues are \$20 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$5. Membership is from September to September. Non-member subscriptions to *The Mountain Gem* are \$25 per year.

Membership privileges include emailed copies of the newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips. If requested, hard copy editions of *The Mountain Gem* will be mailed via USPS for an additional \$25 per year.

The objectives of this society shall be to effect a close association of those persons who are interested in the study of gems, rocks and minerals and the arts and sciences related to them. We are a working organization that operates and maintains the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

The Society and Museum are self-supporting on a 100% volunteer basis.

School tours are always available by contacting our Educational Chairperson, Patty Nichols at 678-243-8036.

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible.**

**Please remember us when planning your estate.**



### **Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum**

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

Phone: 828-369-7831

In the Old Jail House

FREE ADMISSION

May 1 – October 31

Monday Thru Saturday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours

And Special Requests

[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)

**Society email: [franklingemsociety@gmail.com](mailto:franklingemsociety@gmail.com)**

**Editor: [editor.themountaingem@gmail.com](mailto:editor.themountaingem@gmail.com)**

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,  
North Carolina, is a founding member  
of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.**

## 2017- 2018 Officers And Board of Directors

|                     |                |              |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President           | Al Pribble     | 369-2548     |
| Past President      | Tom Sterrett   | 349-3374     |
| Vice President      | Arlon Eldridge | 369-5271     |
| Secretary           | Susan L Fritz  | 524-4936     |
| Treasurer           | Lake Holland   | 369-5421     |
| Assistant Treasurer | Marie Tsacrios | 369-5791     |
| Museum Manager      | Duane Haskell  | 349-5123     |
| Director (2017)     | Cy Amrich      | 356-7816     |
| Director (2017)     | Diane Mason    | 706-379-1718 |
| Director (2018)     | Mike Gillen    | 678-772-6375 |
| Director (2018)     | Tom Parker     | 342-3619     |

## Museum

|                      |                   |                             |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Museum Ass't. Mgr.   | OPEN              |                             |
| Curator Emeritus     | Fred Plesner      | 349-4224                    |
| Curator              | Ralph Crawford    | 524-3279                    |
| Gift Shop Co-Chairs  | Anamay Rossomando | 349-2807<br>or 727-367-9196 |
|                      | Diane Mason       | 706-379-1718                |
|                      | Jane Morgan       | 342-8703                    |
| Museum Workshop      | Cy Amrich         | 356-7816                    |
| Ass't. Workshop Mgr. | Virginia Bennis   | 631-830-5403                |

## Committee Chairmen

|                    |                |                             |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Budget & Finance   | Lake Holland   | 369-5421                    |
|                    | Marie Tsacrios | 369-5791                    |
| Calendar Chairman  | Jay Mooney     | 678-488-0620                |
| Door Prizes        | Arlon Eldridge | 369-5271                    |
| Education          | Patty Nichols  | 678-243-8036                |
| Field Trips        | Marsha Harmon  | 369-7262                    |
| Field Trips Ass't. | Lake Holland   | 369-5421                    |
| Gemboree           | Norm Holbert   | 634-0350                    |
| Gemboree Ass't.    | Kathy Young    | 941-387-4397                |
| Historian          | Ron Rossomando | 349-2807<br>or 727-367-9196 |
| Librarian          | Marie Tsacrios | 369-5791                    |
| Membership         | Ellen Crawford | 524-3279                    |
| Publications       | Ellen Crawford | 524-3279                    |
| Publicity          | George Fritz   | 524-4936                    |
| Programs           | Sande Lolli    | 561-542-9650                |
| Refreshments       | OPEN           |                             |
| Scholarships       | Arlon Eldridge | 369-5271                    |



American Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1994 (7<sup>th</sup>), 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
1996 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1997 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
1998 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
2000 (5<sup>th</sup>), 2004 (7<sup>th</sup>),  
2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>)  
2008 (5<sup>th</sup>) 2010(3<sup>rd</sup>)  
2014 (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Southeast Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95  
1996-99 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
2003 2<sup>nd</sup> New Editor  
2004 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
2006 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
2010(1<sup>st</sup>) 2014 (1<sup>st</sup>)

American Federation (AFMS): [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
Southeast Federation (SFMS): [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)  
Franklin Gem Museum and Society:  
[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)  
[www.facebook.com/franklingems](https://www.facebook.com/franklingems)

**August Meeting**

Date: August 30, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Robert Carpenter Community Bldg

Program: Elections & Installation of Officers

**Kim Cochran presentation**



**September Birthdays**

- 2 – Elena Marsh
- 2 – Paul Thomas
- 9 – Marie Tsacrios
- 18 – Victoria Mahar
- 29 – Norm Holbert



**September Anniversaries**

- 19 – Robbie & Janet Hayles
- 20 – Ellen & Ralph Crawford



Membership renewals are due in September. Please pay Ellen Crawford at a meeting or mail a check to museum "attn membership".

***Thursday, September 13, 2018 is  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



**Al Pribble, President**



July was our busiest month and thanks to all who came out to Host and demonstrate at the show and at the Museum.

From all reports I have heard the SFMS field trip was a success, with many volunteers. I am sure Marsha will have a full report in this Newsletter. I am not sure how long it took Duane to recover from packing out a boulder with the rubies in it. We still have two and a half months to go on our season, so please give Jay Mooney your support as he schedules people to work in the Museum. It is a tough job and it is critical to the operation of the Museum. Mike G. and Ron R. have also been giving an extra effort in making sure everyone is trained in the new sales system. Our sales are on track to do well this year with credit card sales making about 60% of the gross. The computerized system has added over \$700 so far to our bottom line by charging sales tax that we previously paid to the state. In addition, it is giving a better tracking of inventory than our previous sales sheets.

Remember – August meeting is our election for board members and officers. Kim Cochran will be here with what I am sure is something to interest everyone.

Until next month -

Rock On!



**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.**  
**Minutes – July 19, 2018 – General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, July 19, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 45 members with 6 guests.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June minutes. Norm Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Diane Mason seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that we were in the plus column for June.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge stated the scholarship applicants from WCU will be present for our next meeting.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell is absent this evening. President Al Pribble reported the air conditioner froze up last weekend but he has secured a repairman who will clean all units now and will do so on a regular basis.

Curator – Ralph Crawford did not have anything to report.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop – Anamay Rossomando reminded us of the Cowee Heritage Day on August 18 when extra help will be needed for our table. She asked us to check out our display when visiting the Macon County Library.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, August 16. She stated that membership dues will be payable in September.

Education – Patty Nichols is still at home recovering from her surgical procedure.

Workshop Manager – Cy Amrich did not have anything new to report.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon will be managing the SFMS event coming up on August 4 at Chunky Gal. We host this event every two years. She still has the need for a few more helpers. If you can assist, please contact Marsha.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

Gem Show – July 26, 27, 28 & 29 – Norman Holbert asked us to sign-up to volunteer at the show next week. Set up will be at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. The raffle item is a beautiful amethyst pendant and earrings set.



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Scheduler – Al Pribble again thanked Jay Mooney for his hard work in getting each and every day scheduled for museum hosting.

Nominations—Board Members/Officers - Tom Sterrett, as Chairman for the Nominating Committee, read the nominations for the following officer and board member positions:

President – Jane Morgan

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge - Paul Thomas

Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge - Lake Holland

Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell

Board Members – (there are TWO positions open):

Cy Amrich

Ellen Crawford

Vicki Knisley

Diane Mason

Tom Sterrett



Voting by ballot will take place at our August General meeting with installation and dinner in September.

Wire Wrap I Class – Diane Mason gave certificates to the following individuals who completed the recent Wire Wrap I class: Vicki Knisley, Kathi Walbridge, Stacy Walbridge, Ellen Williams, Joe Laurello and Duane Haskell. Congratulations to all!

There being no further business, Fred Plesner made a motion to adjourn. Susan Fritz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m. by President, Al Pribble.

Door prize winning tickets were drawn and prizes distributed. Members then enjoyed an ice cream social. Thank you to Arlon Eldridge for procuring the ice cream!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan L. Fritz, Secretary*



*Photos by George Fritz & Ralph Crawford*



## Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator  
Lake Holland - Assistant



The week or so prior to August 4 should be referenced as a wash out. The results of this weather could be seen by the Buck Creek water level, bent over trees and the amount of mud that had collected out near the Herbert mine. Yet for the hardy volunteers and trusting DMC members it proved to be profitable for a few. As I have listed many negative reasons not to attend The Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip, sponsored by the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin; the one very positive reason to attend this trip was the rains ability to wash off old material and expose new rocks and minerals.

The result was 42 DMC members with small to little finds, 1 couple with a huge bolder of smaragdite (local term) and ruby which could only be weighed by guess – 75 pounds, and another couple having sifted through Buck Creek material most of the day – 29 rubies found at last count.

Our volunteers seemed to have made all the difference, even to the visitors having found small finds as they were glad to have come. Many positive comments were passed to me as they changed from Buck Creek, to Chunky Gal Mine and on to Herbert Corundum Mine. “Very knowledgeable” and “available for questions” were said to me many times that day about our crew: Virginia B, Stacy W, Duane H, Nancy M, Vicki K, Ralph C, Lake H, Doreen F, Gary G, Paige J, Darlene L, and Randy L.

Marsha, Lake and the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin sends on a huge THANK YOU.

Questions or suggestions contact Marsha Harmon 828-369-7262 or Lake Holland 828-369-5421.



*Photos by Ralph Crawford , Lilie Phillips, & Diana Poppelreuter*

## Gift Shop News

Anamay Rossomando, Diane Mason & Jane Morgan - Co-Chairs



Please visit the gift shop to see our new variety of jewelry and specimens.

We would like to thank Fran Rasmusson for her generous gift of jewelry from her collection to benefit the gem museum. Now available for sale are a coke bottle ring and other "gems".

A big thanks to our hosts who keep us open during this busy season, sales have been good, and quite a few guests from all over the country have visited. We only have a few months left being open 6 days a week and still need and appreciate everyone's help.

Any suggestions or ideas to be done by us, are welcome and a note can be left in our mail slot.

## Upcoming Field Trips News



**September 8, Saturday; Cullasaja River** sifting trip; meet at gas Station on Highlands Hwy; 9 AM; bring waders or watershoes, 1/8 inch screen, shovel, bucket, towel & UV lite.

**September 29, Saturday; Willis Mtn Kyanite Mine;** Dillwyn, VA; self guided trip; info at Museum

**October 5,6 & 7; Fri, Sat & Sun; Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA;** Rock Swap & Dig; more info contact Marsha or Lake.

**October 13 or 27; Diamond Hill** interested in going; sign up sheet on Museum bulletin board

Questions or concerns: Marsha Harmon 828-369-7262 or [marsha.harmon@frontier.com](mailto:marsha.harmon@frontier.com)

Lake Holland 828-369-5421 or [iluvnascar@frontier.com](mailto:iluvnascar@frontier.com)

## Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor



I would like to thank all the last 6 WIRE I students for their truly hard work. Everyone was always on time for class, no one missed a class (Duane made his one up), and no one grumbled or complained about any of the projects. They all put their thinking caps on and their shoulders to the wheel and worked. A better group I could not have asked for. THANKS one and all!!

I would, also, like to take this opportunity to thank someone who quietly helps me and others from the background. John Hayes is the only individual who creates the certificates that we instructors hand out to our students. He is always ready, willing, and able to do this for us. THANK you, John. Without you there would be no certificates.

Also, I would like to thank all the ladies and gentlemen who came out to the July Gemboree and did wire demonstrations. It was a great turn out. You make me proud!!!

## Clay

Fred Plesner – Curator Emeritus



Over the many years that I have written for "The Mountain Gem" there is one subject that I have never given any thought to and that is Clay. It's just that everyday common dirt that we walk on, but our red clay is a mineral and from time to time has been used to produce useful products.

The first use of that reddish sticky stuff that we find so hard to get off our shoes that comes to mind is our Native Americans. They used it to produce pottery. There are many examples of this in our "Native American Artifacts Room" in the Gem and Mineral Museum of Franklin. Some years ago, we gave the children who visited the museum pottery shards that had been collected at a site near "Pickens's Nose" in the north end of Macon County. There are still a few potters in the county who use our local clay to produce unique and or useful decorative items for sale.

When the Macon County Jail burned in 1849 a kiln was built on the Little Tennessee river near the foot of Iotla Street and the brick were fired there to rebuild the "Old Jail" which had recently been destroyed. In this particular case the prisoners were used to provide the labor to make and fire the brick that would be used for the rebuilding.



The next circumstance that I have found brickmaking mentioned is in 1904 when 150,000 brick where made. I can only speculate as to where they were used or shipped to, but fire had destroyed Mr. Pendergrasse's store on Main Street in 1904. Mr. Pendergrasse built a larger structure in brick in 1904 and that building is presently used by the "Macon County Historical Museum." Were those brick used for the rebuilding?

## Macon County Gemboree

Another show is now history and for the most part was very successful. The inclusion of the Franklin Faceters' Frolic was great for both the Frolic and the Show. The attendance for the show was up and most vendors were happy with their sales.

The club volunteers were present enough that our tables were covered practically all the times. If I had any disappointments with our tables was with faceting demos. Virginia Bennis was the only volunteer when it came to faceting. She was there twice to demo and otherwise the faceting machine sat there with no one behind it or showing its use. All other demos went well and many club members gave very freely of their time to help make this show a success.

Just a note to alert you to the upcoming Leaf Lookers Gemboree (October 19-21). We'll again be looking for volunteers for manning the club table and demo area.



Thanks for all that everyone did from set up to tear down, Norm Holbert





Thank you to Issaiah and Morgan Simpson and Darcel Green for all your continued assistance in the Museum. I could not of done it without you!!

They helped deliver, carry and label gem bags; clean the museum; assist hosts; offer valuable information; and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Issaiah even made time to assist as Deputy Sheriff in the Jail.

Thank you again for all you do. Ya'll rock!! Ellen



**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS:**

**September 22, Franklin, NC**

Officer Installation and Banquet. Please remember to bring a side dish. Please contact our banquet coordinators directly or sign up at the Museum. Help is needed to set up, serve, break down and clean up and overall assistance.

**October 19, 20 & 21, Franklin, NC**

Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree. Set-up begins Thursday, October 18th. Volunteers needed as hosts, demonstrators, security, set up and break down, and over all assistance to make this Gemboree successful.

Please contact Norm Holbert or sign up at Museum.

Show is Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM.



## Minerals of the Museum: Kyanite

Stacy Walbridge



Within the North Carolina room at the museum is one of the few minerals that has a split personality. In one direction Kyanite can be as hard as quartz at a 6.5-7.0 Mohs hardness and in another direction, it can be as soft as fluorite with a Mohs hardness of 4.5-5.0. That property makes Kyanite a challenge to form into faceted gems but it has another unique property that makes it useful in the production of refractory products like bricks and porcelain. Unlike most minerals, Kyanite is one of the few minerals that expands when it is heated. Added to porcelain, Kyanite helps produce a strong and stable material in spark plugs, sinks, and bathroom fixtures.

With a chemical composition of  $Al_2SiO_5$  Kyanite is classified as a silicate which are composed largely of Silicon (Si) and Oxygen (O). Kyanite is found mainly in metamorphic rocks and can be accompanied by Staurolite, Garnets, and Corundum. It is not uncommon to find Kyanite nearby in places like Buck Creek, Ellijay, Mason Mountain, and Winding Stair Gap. Perhaps on a future field trip or outing you may find the mineral with the split personality.

### Word Search for Kyanite

To prepare you for finding Kyanite in the field you can look for Kyanite and other words in the following word search puzzle. The words are hidden and may be spelled in any direction

S F G V J C L Z O M U D N U R O C Y T H  
 G Z G G N Y G A R N E T W Q R T J K A Q  
 N L V O L E Q M V N H F D S A Q T E B O  
 T L K K W Z B J X P Z H J B R Z R U C O  
 M Y X T T D C W C N N C N V A K Y V U Q  
 M S W R F S M W K A C I V A B D G Q M F  
 C C A O R S V N S X A Y U Y B I E M Z Y  
 N U J R L T D H Z L B R A K Y A N I T E  
 Q G T J D Z O N E I X E T J J V E X R O  
 O J G R K M A C O A G O M G I F J D B Q  
 X R T G Z K R L X L X G J V N L J F E I  
 L B Y P E O X S S G J S N W W L L M L O  
 A M R G P P K F Y B O F Z P I W R E L S  
 Y E C E T I R O U L F R R V K B L B O E  
 R L G J E C L R N C E H T I O M L C X D  
 F A C E T E D I V O Y Y J H S B P J V W  
 Z R D Y T I L A N O S R E P G H P L S G  
 E Z D L K K H W Y T Z S I L I C A T E D  
 B F J R P D X W M M R E F R A C T O R Y  
 K Y V L D P B S V O N Z S X Q Q Q W G Q

#### Word List

CORUNDUM  
 ELLIJAY  
 FACETED  
 FLUORITE  
 GARNET  
 KYANITE  
 MOHS  
 PERSONALITY  
 PORCELAIN  
 QUARTZ  
 REFRACTORY  
 SILICATE

## From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

### Gem and Mineral Shows

#### October 19, 20 & 21, Franklin, NC

Leaf Lookers Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Building; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM; Sponsored by Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC; Adult \$2; contact Norm Holbert normholbert@comcast.net



### Field Trips

#### October 5, 6 and 7, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA; 3 day Rock Swap and Dig; 8 AM to 6 PM; donations suggested

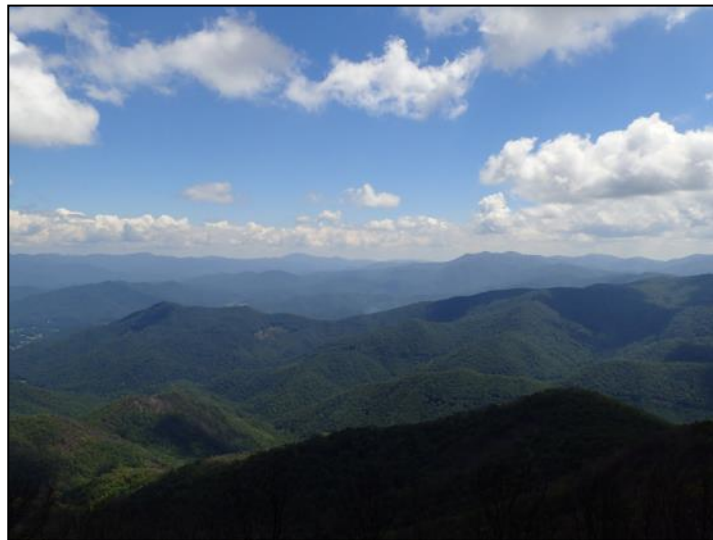
### Other Events

#### May 26 thru October 13 Saturdays, Downtown Franklin, NC

Pickin' on the Square; local musicians start around 7 PM; free family fun; bring a lawn chair; Gazebo

#### October 20, Downtown Franklin, NC

22nd Annual PumpkinFest; sponsored by Town of Franklin; pumpkin roll; food vendors; autumn festival; music; contests; kids area; 9AM to 4PM; FREE



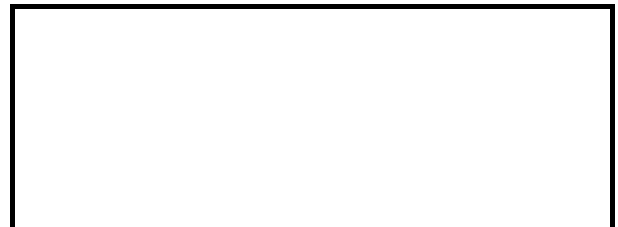
*THE MOUNTAIN GEM*

*Ellen Crawford, Editor*

*Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com*

25 Phillips Street  
Franklin, NC 28734

**First Class Mail**



| Month        | Board Meeting | General Meeting  |
|--------------|---------------|--|
| January 2018 | 23            | 25   |
| February     | 20            | 22 Anniversary   |
| March        | 27            | 29   |
| April        | 24            | 26   |
| May          | 29            | 31   |
| June         | 26            | 28   |
| July         | 17            | 19 Ice Cream Social  |
| August       | 28            | 30 Elections   |
| September    | 25            | 27 Banquet   |
| October      | 23            | 25   |
| November     | 27            | 29   |
| December     | 11 4:00       | 15 End of Year Party<br>11:00 am to 4:00 pm<br><b>Saturday</b> |

**Monthly General Meetings:** 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road Hwy 441 South

**Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.**

**Board Meetings:** 6:30 PM  
At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum  
All Board Meetings are open to the members